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II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims of the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for calculating charges to customers,

comprising:

a database, for managing customer data required for calculating said charges to customers;

rule management means, for storing a rule rule sets that, in advance, defines each define a charge

calculation method that is employed in accordance with a the type of customer service that is

rendered, wherein the charge calculation method includes at least one rule based instruction for

calculating a discount, wherein said at least one rule based instruction references a discount table

that includes a discount threshold value; and

calculation means, for which, for each different type of customer service provided to a customer,

identifies the rule set associated with the type of customer service, and calculates charges for

each event belonging to the type of customer service based on the associated rule set, in

accordance with the contents of said customer data read from said database, obtaining for a

pertinent customer, from said rule management means, said rule that defines a charge calculation

method, and for calculating a charge.

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2. (Previously presented) A data processing system for calculating charges to customers,

comprising:

a database, for managing customer data required for calculating said charges to customers;

rule management means, for storing a rule that, in advance, defines a charge calculation method

that is employed in accordance with the type of customer service that is rendered;

a discount table, which is described in said rule that defines a charge calculation method, for

storing a charge discount ratio that is employed for said charge calculation in accordance with

the type of customer service that is rendered, wherein the discount table further includes a set of

change point identifiers and associated discount threshold values; and

calculation means, for, in accordance with the contents of said customer data read from said

database, obtaining for a pertinent customer, from said rule management means, said rule that

defines a charge calculation method, and for calculating a charge by referring to said charge

discount ratio defined in said pertinent rule.

3. (Previously presented) The data processing system of claim 2, wherein the rule further

defines a desired change point identifier.

4. (New) A method for calculating charges to customers using a data processing computer

system, comprising:

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associating a set of rules with each service type provided by a service provider;

providing a database of customer data, wherein the customer data includes events, and wherein each event belongs to a service type utilized by a customer;

identifying the events belonging to a predetermined customer;

analyzing the events to determine what service types were utilized by the predetermined customer; and

for each service type utilized by the predetermined customer, processing the events belonging to the service type by applying the associated set of rules for the service type.

5. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the set of rules associated with each service type includes a discount condition rule and a discount calculation rule.

6. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the set of rules associated with each service type further includes a charge calculation rule.

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